

HOUSE BILL 724

By Cooper B

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to lottery scholarships.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-920, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-907(3), is amended by deleting subdivisions (A) and (B) in their entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(3)

(A) Achieve a final overall unweighted high school grade point average of at least 2.0, or

(B) Attain a composite ACT score of at least 18 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score determined to be equivalent by the Tennessee higher education commission on any single SAT test date.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-908, is amended by deleting subdivision (2) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(2)

(A) Attain a composite ACT score of at least 18 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score determined to be equivalent by the Tennessee higher education commission on any single SAT test date, if such student completed high school in a Tennessee home school program or graduated from a high school located in Tennessee that is not an eligible high school; or

(B) Pass the GED tests with an average score of at least 525 and attain a composite ACT score of at least 18 on any single ACT test date or a combined

SAT score determined to be equivalent by the Tennessee higher education commission on any single SAT test date, if such student obtained a GED; and

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-911, is amended by deleting subsections (a), (b) and (c) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a) To continue to receive a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, a student at an eligible postsecondary institution shall continue to meet all applicable requirements for the scholarship and shall reapply for the scholarship upon attempting twenty-four (24), forty-eight (48), seventy-two (72), or ninety-six (96) semester hours. At the end of the semester in which the student has attempted a total of twenty-four (24) semester hours, the student shall have achieved a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.25 to continue to receive the Tennessee HOPE scholarship. Eligibility for the Tennessee HOPE scholarship shall also be reviewed at the end of the semester in which a student has attempted a total of forty-eight (48), seventy-two (72), or ninety-six (96) semester hours. At the end of the semester in which the student has attempted a total of forty-eight (48), seventy-two (72), or ninety-six (96) semester hours, the student shall achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 to continue to receive the scholarship for the following academic year.

(b) A student enrolled in an undergraduate degree program required to be more than one hundred twenty (120) semester hours in length shall achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 at the end of the semester in which the student has attempted one hundred twenty (120) semester hours to continue to receive the scholarship.

(c) A student receiving a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, who ceases to be academically eligible for the scholarship because the student fails to achieve the cumulative grade point average required at the end of the semester in which the student

has attempted a total of twenty-four (24), forty-eight (48), or seventy-two (72) semester hours, or ninety-six (96) semester hours if the student is enrolled in an undergraduate degree program requiring more than one hundred twenty (120) semester hours, may regain the HOPE scholarship, if the student continues to meet all applicable nonacademic requirements for the scholarship, attends an eligible postsecondary institution without the HOPE scholarship, achieves a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 at the end of any semester in which eligibility would have been reviewed under this section had the student not lost the scholarship, and reapplies for the scholarship. A student who regains the scholarship and then loses the scholarship a second time, by failing to achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 at the end of a subsequent semester in which academic qualifications are reviewed, may not regain the scholarship. No retroactive award of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship shall be made under this subsection (c) for semester hours attempted in order to regain the scholarship.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-911, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(f) Before an educational institution denies a continuing student a scholarship for failure to meet the cumulative grade point averages required by this section, the institution shall make its best efforts to counsel the student concerning causes for such failure.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-916, is amended by deleting subsections (a) and (b) in their entireties and by substituting instead the following:

(a) To be eligible for a General Assembly Merit Scholarship as an entering freshman, a student who graduates from an eligible high school after December 1, 2003, upon meeting all curriculum requirements of the high school for graduation and who is

seeking an associate or baccalaureate degree at an eligible postsecondary institution, shall:

(1) Meet all requirements for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship;

(2) Achieve a final overall weighted high school grade point average of at least 3.0;

(3) Attain a composite ACT score of at least 21 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score determined to be equivalent by the Tennessee higher education commission on any single SAT test date;

(4) Apply for a General Assembly Merit Scholarship; and

(5) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than sixteen (16) months after graduating from high school.

(b) To be eligible for a General Assembly Merit Scholarship as an entering freshman, a student who completes high school in a Tennessee home school program after December 1, 2003, or who graduates from a high school located in Tennessee that is not an eligible high school after December 1, 2003, shall:

(1) Meet all requirements for a Tennessee Hope scholarship that are applicable to such student;

(2) Attain a composite ACT score of at least 21 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score determined to be equivalent by the Tennessee higher education commission on any single SAT test date;

(3) During the course of a home school program or while attending high school, enroll in at least four (4) courses totaling at least twelve (12) semester hours credit at an eligible postsecondary institution. Such courses shall meet or be equivalent to courses meeting the minimum degree requirements of the board

of regents, other than the minimum degree requirements pertaining to physical education;

(4) Achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 for all courses attempted at any eligible postsecondary institution during the course of a home school program or while attending high school;

(5) Apply for a General Assembly Merit Scholarship; and

(6) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than sixteen (16) months after completing high school in a Tennessee home school program, or graduating from high school.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-929(c), is amended by deleting the figure "2.75" and substituting instead the figure "2.25" and by deleting the figure "3.0" and substituting instead the figure "2.5".

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-931(b), is amended by deleting the figure "2.75" and substituting instead the figure "2.25" and by deleting the figure "3.0" and substituting instead the figure "2.5".

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-935(a), is amended by deleting subdivision (3) in its entirety and substituting instead the following language:

(3) Attains a composite ACT score of at least 18 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score determined to be equivalent by the Tennessee higher education commission on any single SAT test date;

SECTION 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.